

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: December 10, 2015

Agenda Item: Lake Helena and Canyon Ferry Reservoir Five-Year Commercial Carp Fishing Permit

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

FWP received an application for a commercial fishing permit to harvest carp via active seining from Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena. By statute, the Fish & Wildlife Commission is authorized to approve one commercial fishing operation for each body of water and to establish specific regulations regarding gear, limits, seasons, closures and any other limitations deemed necessary. This application is for a Class B Permit that requires a fee of \$200 annually plus a \$1,000 Surety Bond. The commission has approved the commercial fishing regulations for Canyon Ferry and Lake Helena annually for the past eight years. The current applicant (Tracy Fortner) has held the permit for the past five years. This year he has requested a five-year permit (2016-2020). The proposed regulations are included in the information package.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Commercial fishing regulations for Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena were originally approved by the commission in 2005 following public notice and an opportunity for public comment. An environmental assessment was prepared to evaluate any potential impacts of this proposal on the human environment, and was distributed for public comment. The public will again be notified of the potential adoption of regulations for 2016-2020. The public will have time to comment on the proposed regulations between tentative adoption of the regulations at the Dec.10 meeting and before final adoption of the regulations in February 2016.

Alternatives and Analysis

The F&W Commission has two options: approve the proposed regulations for public comment or revise the proposed regulations and solicit public comment. Based on public comment, it may be necessary to revise the proposed regulations governing commercial fishing on Canyon Ferry Reservoir or Lake Helena, or to deny the proposed application for commercial fishing. That decision will be made at the February meeting.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Approve the proposed application and regulations for public comment.

Proposed Motion

I move that the commission approve for public comment the proposed regulations for a commercial fishing operation on Canyon Ferry Reservoir and Lake Helena for 2016-2020.